



Fact Sheet:

October 2002



Driving Under-the-Influence (DUI) Statistics

2000 NATIONAL STATISTICS

- 41,821 people were killed in traffic crashes. 16,653 of these fatalities were a result of alcohol. (40 percent of all highway deaths.)
- Over 300,000 people suffered injuries in alcohol-related collisions.
- 31 percent of all fatal crashes involved a driver or non-occupant with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of .10 percent or greater.
- 33 percent of all pedestrians aged 16 and above killed by motor vehicles, were intoxicated.

Drivers

- 8,146 intoxicated drivers were fatally injured in single-vehicle crashes. Intoxicated drivers represent 57% of all alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities.
- More than 1.5 million drivers were arrested for driving under-the-influence of alcohol or narcotics. This is an arrest rate of 1 for every 121 licensed drivers in the United States.
- Nearly three-quarters of drivers convicted of driving while impaired are either frequent heavy drinkers or alcoholics.
- For every 100,000 licensed drivers, young drinking drivers are involved in fatal crashes at twice the rate of driver's aged 21 and older.

Crashes

- An alcohol-related motor vehicle crash kills someone every 33 minutes and injures someone every 2 minutes.

- The rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes is more than 3 times as high at night as during the day (61 percent vs. 18 percent).
- About 3 in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol related crash at some time in their lives.
- 30 percent of all fatal crashes during the week were alcohol-related, compared to 53 percent on weekends.
- Crashes involving men are more likely to be alcohol-related than those involving women. Alcohol involvement is highest for men aged 21-34.
- The probability of a crash begins to increase significantly at 0.05 percent BAC; for drivers with BACs above 0.15 percent on weekend nights, the likelihood of being killed in a single-vehicle crash is more than 380 times higher than it is for non-drinking drivers.

Youth

- 2,339 youth died in alcohol-related crashes.
- The number of drinking drivers under the age of 21 in fatal crashes dropped by 62% from 1982.
- More than two-thirds of the youth motor vehicle occupant fatalities did not use a seat belt or motorcycle helmet.
- Most youth motor vehicle fatalities occurred in June and July.
- 77 percent of youth alcohol-related fatalities were males.

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)

- 34 states and the District of Columbia have a .08 BAC per se law. President Clinton signed legislation that will require each state to pass .08% BAC limit laws by October 2003 or lose a portion of their federal highway funds.
- Even at blood alcohol concentration levels as low as .02 percent, alcohol affects driving ability and crash likelihood. The probability of crash begins to increase significantly at .05 percent BAC and climbs rapidly after about .08 percent BAC.
- 31 percent of all traffic fatalities occurred in crashes where the driver or non-occupant had a BAC of 0.10 or greater.
- 22 percent of all drivers and 14 percent of drivers under 21 involved in fatal crashes had a BAC result of .15 or higher.
- High BAC drivers (.15 or above) accounted for more than half of all the alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

Trends

- Since 1986, the numbers of alcohol-related crashes and fatalities have been slowly decreasing.
- Alcohol related motor vehicle fatalities for the population aged 15-20 years decreased by almost 59%, since 1982.

2000 CALIFORNIA STATE STATISTICS

- 3,730 people in California were killed in traffic crashes. 1,233 of these fatalities were a result of alcohol; this represents an average of one-third of all traffic fatalities in the State.
- 30,971 people suffered injuries in alcohol-related collisions statewide.

- 2,086 pedestrians and bicyclists were killed or injured in collisions involving some degree of alcohol impairment.
- There were a total of 183,955 DUI arrests.

California Trends

- Alcohol-involved traffic fatalities decreased 21 percent from 1993 to 1996. Although alcohol involvement in traffic accidents has declined over the past 10 years, 31.6 percent of all traffic fatalities were still alcohol involved.
- Alcohol-involved traffic fatalities have dropped by 57.3% since 1988.

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)

- The illegal BAC level in California is set at .08 percent. However, the typical arrest registers more than double the legal limit at the time of arrest.

First Offender16 percent
Second Offender18 percent
Third Offender18 percent
Fourth plus18 percent
Average18 percent

- The illegal BAC limit for commercial drivers is .04 percent.

Administrative Drivers License Revocation

- In 1990, California implemented a mandatory drivers license suspension law for drinking drivers, also know as "admin per se."
- 172,606 licenses were suspended as a result of "admin per se" in 2000.